GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:342
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2000
FORMULATION OF MODEL MUNICIPAL CORPORATION ACT
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to formulate a Model Municipal Corporation Act which could act as a guide for States;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry has decided to send a team of his Ministry and other authorities that would visit the States and interact with the senior officials to bring about implementation of the 74th constitutional amendment;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether during the recent National Conference of Mayors, the Mayors complained that they have not been given any powers and privileges;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether recommendations of the State Finance Commissions had not been implemented by the States;
(g) if so, the facts in this regard; and
(h) the steps taken by the Government for fully implementing the 74th Constitutional amendment?

Answer

MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT & POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a)to(c): After consultation with the Mayors in two days National Conference of Mayors held at New Delhi 29-30thApril, 2000, it was decided to develop a Model Municipal Corporation Act to serve as a guide to the State Governments. Meanwhile, a study has been commissioned under the Financial Institutions Reforms & Expansion (FIRE) Project, for developing a Model Municipal Act.

(d)&(e): In the two days National Conference of Mayors referred toin reply to part (a), (b), (c) of the question, various issues relating to urban development and municipal administration were discussed. The mayors present in the conference also raised the issues regarding insufficient powers with them under the prevailing municipal laws. They desired that sufficient administration and financial powers may be entrusted to enable them to fulfil the aspirations of the people.

(f)&(g): Many of the State Finance Commissions set up bythe various States to review the financial position of urban local bodies have since submitted their recommendations to the Governors of the respective States. The State Governmentsare in the process of implementing the recommendations of their State Finance Commission. Since municipalities is a state subject, it is for the concerned State Government to take a decision on the recommendations of the State Finance Commission.

(h): The Constitution 74th Amendment Act came into force on 1st June1993. As provided in the Act, the State Municipal Laws were amended within a period of one year from the date of commencement of the Act to bring them in conformity with the provision of the Constitution (74th Amendment) Act. The first round of elections to municipalities have been held in all States/Union Territories except Bihar and Pondicherry, where the same could not be held due to court case. The Government of India is taking all steps to ensure implementation of the various provisions of the Constitution (74th Amendment) Act. Forthis purpose, a series of Regional Meets of Elected Representatives has been conducted by the Ministry of Urban Development at Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Calcutta. A National level conference of Ministers of Municipal Administration and Urban Development was also conducted bythe Ministry of Urban Development at New Delhi in January 2000.In this conference, the State Governments were asked for early implementation of the provisions of the Constitution (74th Amendment) Act.